

107. *LIMNOBÆNUS FUSCUS* (Linn.); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xxiii. p. 146 (1894).

Males of the Ruddy Crake, which are the first Mr. Whitehead has sent home.

108. *ÆGIALITIS DUBIUS* (Scop.); Grant, Ibis, 1895, p. 266.

Mr. Whitehead has obtained examples of a Little Ringed Plover about which he makes the following remarks:—"I send you a small resident Ringed Plover; you will notice first that the sexes are alike in plumage, secondly that they are in full breeding-dress when birds of the northern species are in their winter (or dull) plumage, and that they are not *Æ. peronii*." I have examined these specimens carefully, as well as some obtained by Mr. Everett from other islands of the group, and I find that they are identical with examples from India and other localities. It is usual to find that when a certain number of birds of a species are resident—as in the present instance—they assume their summer plumage sooner and more fully than migratory birds of the same species.

109. *TOTANUS GLAREOLA* (Linn.); Seebohm, Monog. of the Charadriidæ, p. 365 (1887).

A female of the Wood-Sandpiper on migration.

110. *TACHYBAPTES PHILIPPINENSIS* (Bonnat.); Walden, Trans. Zool. Soc. ix. p. 245 (1875).

The Philippine Dabchick in winter plumage completes the present list.

XXXVII.—*On some Birds from the Island of Negros, Philippines.* (Second Contribution.) By WM. EAGLE CLARKE, F.L.S.

My friend Mr. John Maclauchlan, Director of the Dundee Museum, has submitted to me for identification another collection of birds from the east coast of the Island of Negros, made by Mr. W. A. Keay, between the middle of November 1894 and the end of April 1895, and presented by that gentleman to the Museum.

This little series, like Mr. Keay's previous collection, contains some specimens of considerable interest. Among the more important I may mention here that rare Raptor, *Falco atriceps* (a subspecies of *Falco peregrinator*), which is an addition to the avifauna of the Philippines. Several other birds among those now to be recorded are either new to or have only rarely been obtained in Negros. On the other hand, a number of the specimens in this second collection belong to species already treated of in my former paper (*Ibis*, 1894, pp. 531-535), and will therefore have no place in this contribution.

Mr. Keay furnishes a short note on that remarkably rare Swift, *Chatura celebensis*, from which it would appear that this bird may not be uncommon, though most difficult to obtain, in the island.

I have also included some notes on several of the Philippine Woodpeckers of the genus *Thriponax*, extracted from letters written to me by the late Mr. Edward Hargitt shortly before his lamented decease. These will, no doubt, be appreciated by those who are interested in the varied forms of this difficult genus.

I shall have to make several references to the following papers :—

RAMSAY, Major R. G. WARDLAW.—'A Revised List of the Birds known to occur in the Philippine Islands, showing their Geographical Distribution.' Appendix to the 'Ornithological Works of the Marquis of Tweeddale' [Tweeddale Memoir], 1881.

STEEER, Professor J. B.—'A List of the Birds and Mammals collected by the Steere Expedition to the Philippines, with Localities, and with Brief Preliminary Descriptions of supposed new Species.' 1890.

BOURNS and WORCESTER.—'Preliminary Notes on the Birds and Mammals collected by the Menage Scientific Expedition to the Philippine Islands.' By Frank S. Bourns and Dean C. Worcester. *Minnesota Acad. Nat. Sci. (Occasional Papers)* vol. i. no. 1. 1894.

I now proceed to catalogue the principal specimens of the present collection. These are :—

LANIUS NASUTUS, Scopoli.

LANIUS NIGRICEPS, Frankl.; Gadow, Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. viii. p. 286.

This specimen has the mantle clear pale grey, and is, I presume, a young bird, though, according to Dr. Gadow, the immature birds have the mantle “more or less strongly washed with grey” only. As *Lanius nasutus* it has been recorded for Negros by Prof. Steere (*op. cit.* p. 13).

ARTAMUS LEUCORHYNCHUS (Linn.).

Two specimens.

In the first of these specimens the primaries are uniform dark slate-colour, and *not* black. In the second specimen the quills are similarly coloured, but their webs, and those of some of the secondaries, are striped, blotched, or tipped with black. This probably indicates that the colour of the larger wing-feathers is dependent upon age, and that these are not fully adult specimens.

This species appears for Negros in the Lists of Major Wardlaw Ramsay and Prof. Steere.

CHÆTURA CELEBENSIS, Selater; Eagle Clarke, *Ibis*, 1894, p. 533.

This species was the prize of Mr. Keay's former collection, and before he returned to Negros in the autumn of 1894 he was strongly urged to use his best endeavours to secure further specimens of this very great rarity. This, unfortunately, he was not able to accomplish, though he saw Swifts, which he believes to have been of this species, *in considerable numbers* on different occasions, but they flew so high that they were out of the reach of shot.

MEROPS PHILIPPINUS, Linn.

Male and female.

THRIPONAX HARGITTI, Sharpe; Eagle Clarke, *Ibis*, 1894, p. 534.

On the appearance of my former paper on the birds of

Negros, the late Mr. Hargitt wrote to me on the subject of the identity of the specimen of *T. hargitti* therein recorded. In reply I sent him the specimen for examination, and he wrote me as follows:—"I can quite understand you and Mr. Hartert* taking the bird to be *T. hargitti*, as it is possible you thought the few white feathers which still exist on either side of the lower part of the rump indicated that the bird had had a white rump. This I do not regard as certain. Upon turning down the white flank-feathers you will find that almost the entire rump is bare of feathers; these might have been white, but they might also have been black; there is nothing whatever to show that they were not black, and many examples of *T. javensis* have concealed white feathers both on the lower back and on the rump, quite as pronounced as in your specimen. What these concealed feathers mean I am not quite sure of, as they occur in some specimens of *T. javensis* and not in others from the same locality, regardless of sex and age. I am unable to pronounce upon your specimen with certainty. I have only seen one specimen from Negros, and this I regard as *T. javensis*, and it is possible your bird may be the same. Now, admitting that I am right in my identification of the British Museum specimen, and that Steere's bird is really *T. javensis*, and admitting also that your bird has had a white rump, then Steere's theory is not satisfactory, and there would be no doubt that two species inhabited the same island. But then another difficulty arises. What would the white-rumped bird be? It would be either *T. hargitti* or *T. philippinensis* of Steere. In my Catalogue of the Picidæ in the British Museum I recorded two specimens of *T. hargitti* said to have come from the Philippines. They were labelled 'Manilla,' but their exact locality was a matter of doubt, though it appeared tolerably certain that the species did occur in other islands than Palawan. Mr. Steere, in his last expedition to the Philippines, records a new species from Masbate and Guimaras; this would appear to be distinct from the Palawan species,

* Mr. Hartert had examined the specimen and confirmed my identification.

as in the former there is a large amount of red on the sides of the head, between the red malar stripe and the red crown and occiput, in the male. I have specimens of Steere's new species from Masbate and Panay, and these certainly show a spreading of red on the sides of the head, not, however, to have suggested a specific difference from *T. hargitti*; but as Mr. Steere says the species has this character so very strongly marked, we cannot doubt him, and we must accept his species. Now your bird may have been this *T. philippinensis*, as it might possibly occur in Negros. It appears more like the latter than it does *T. hargitti*. I fear you will have to wait for another specimen from Negros before you can decide."

CENTROPUS JAVANICUS (Dumont).

A young bird.

There is a specimen from Negros in the National Collection (Shelley, Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. xix. p. 356).

NINOX SCUTULATA (Raffles).

NINOX SCUTULATA (Raffles), subsp. *LUGUBRIS* (Tickell); Blanford, *Ibis*, 1894, p. 524.

One specimen, probably a female; wing 9.2 inches.

This example agrees with Mindanao specimens of *Ninox lugubris* described by the late Mr. Gurney (*Ibis*, 1884, p. 170) in having the outer webs of the primaries remarkably rufous, and the paler interspaces on the tail decidedly tinged with rufous. The tail has six exposed blackish bands and one concealed narrower dark band.

Though Prof. Steere (*Ibis*, 1894, p. 417) says that *N. lugubris* seems to be distributed over the whole Philippine Archipelago, yet it does not appear, so far as I have been able to ascertain, to have hitherto been recorded for Negros.

Mr. Blanford, as indicated above, regards *N. lugubris* as a subspecies only of *N. scutulata*.

FALCO ATRICEPS, Hume.

FALCO PEREGRINATOR, Sund., subspecies *ATRICEPS*, Hume; Gurney, *Ibis*, 1882, pp. 291-293, pl. x.

A young bird; wing 11.95 inches.

This Negros specimen is a young bird in an interesting phase of plumage, *i. e.* showing the first, but slight traces of maturity. The upper parts are deep brownish black, the feathers edged with deeper bluish black; the scapulars, rump, and upper tail-coverts with a few lavender feathers barred with black; the cheeks entirely black; the chin and throat creamy white washed with buff and with fine black central streaks; the breast and upper abdomen pale chestnut heavily streaked with black; the flanks pale chestnut heavily barred with black; the lower abdomen, under tail-coverts, and thighs greyish buff heavily barred with black, and showing on the abdomen and thighs a few lavender feathers barred with black. These new lavender abdominal and tibial feathers indicate most unmistakably that this specimen is a young example of *F. atriceps*, Hume, a bird which the late Mr. Gurney regards as a subspecies of *F. peregrinator*, Sundevall.

Mr. J. H. Gurney has examined this bird and compared it with the skin of *F. atriceps* in the Norwich Museum, and he endorses my views regarding the identity of this specimen.

This rare Indian bird is an interesting addition to the avifauna of the Philippines. It has recently been obtained at and recorded for Foochow, China, under the name of *F. melanogenys* ('Ibis,' 1894, p. 223), but the Rev. H. H. Slater, who has examined the specimen, pronounces it to be *F. atriceps*.

This specimen was shot by Mr. Keay in March 1895 while in the act of killing one of his domestic pigeons in front of his house. Mr. Keay tells me that he often sees falcons about, and he is of opinion that they are resident in the mountains inland.

CIRCUS MELANOLEUCUS (Forster).

This is an interesting specimen. It is practically in the plumage of the adult male, but it lacks the characteristic broad white band on the inner margin of the wing, formed by the lesser wing-coverts being almost entirely of that colour. In the place of this it has only the cubital or inner *edge* of

the wing white, and a few black-and-white feathers on the adjacent marginal coverts, forming a small chequered patch which is so insignificant as to be concealed by the overlapping scapulars when the wing is closed. The proportion of black is consequently much greater on the wing of this bird than in any example of *C. melanoleucus* I have seen. This specimen differs also from the published descriptions of the male of *C. melanoleucus* I have been able to consult, in having the feathers of the upper tail-coverts centred with ashy grey and margined with white, and in wanting the dusky cross-bars present on these coverts in that species.

Though mature, the specimen under consideration is probably not an aged one. This is indicated by the very slight greyish-white edgings to some of the feathers of the nape and chest, and on the tips of some of the left tertials, the exposed right tertials being entirely black. The measurements are: wing 13·3 inches, tail 8·25, tarsus 2·8, and culmen 1·0.

The presence of *C. melanoleucus* in Negros was suspected by Lord Walden and Mr. E. L. Layard on the evidence they furnished to the 'Ibis' in 1872 (p. 98). Elsewhere in the Philippine Archipelago this species has been recorded for Luzon by the late Mr. Gurney, and also by Major Wardlaw Ramsay ('Ibis,' 1886, p. 154); and by Dr. Guillemard for Sulu (P. Z. S. 1885, p. 254).

Prof. Steere found *C. philippinensis*, which appears to be doubtfully distinct from *C. melanoleucus*, in the islands of Mindanao, Guimaras, and Luzon. Messrs. Bourns and Worcester obtained a single female in Negros, and they remark concerning it that it "most nearly agrees with Dr. Steere's description," and they treat of it under the heading of *C. philippinensis* (*op. cit.* pp. 32 & 44).

This specimen was shot from a small tree by Mr. Keay in the spring of 1895. He also informs me that two pairs of these birds were to be seen almost daily quartering the ground on his estate.

MACROPYGIA TENUIROSTRIS, G. R. Gray.

A young bird; wing 6·7 inches.

The only previous record for this species in Negros with

which I am at present acquainted is Lord Walden's (Trans. Zool. Soc. ix. p. 218, 1875), where he notices a male obtained by Dr. A. B. Meyer in this island. This specimen he afterwards, as Marquis of Tweeddale, made the type of a new species, *Macropygia eurycerca* (P. Z. S. 1878, p. 288). Count Salvadori, however, has examined this type specimen, which is now in the National Collection, and considers it to be an adult male of *M. tenuirostris* (Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. xxi. (Columbæ) pp. 346-7, 1893).

GALLUS FERRUGINEUS (Gm.).

An adult male.

Though pretty widely distributed in the Archipelago, this bird has only lately been recorded for Negros by Messrs. Bourns and Worcester (*op. cit.* p. 29).

Mr. Keay tells me that this is a very abundant species in Negros, and that numbers are shot for the table.

STERNA BERGII, Licht.

An adult in winter plumage.

This is another species that has only recently been added to the fauna of Negros, through the labours of Messrs. Bourns and Worcester (*op. cit.* p. 31).

XXXVIII.—*On the Position of the Feet of Birds during Flight.* By E. W. H. HOLDSWORTH, F.L.S., F.Z.S.

MR. SCLATER's observations (referred to at p. 376 in the last number of 'The Ibis') on the manner in which the Gulls and Egyptian Kites carried their feet, as seen by him during his recent trip to the Nile, are specially interesting to me, as for many years the position of the feet of birds during flight has been a subject to which I have given attention. Individual inquiries into such a subject must necessarily be incomplete; but as, both at home and in Ceylon (1865-1871), I have had many opportunities of making observations, especially on the birds found on the coast and at sea, I will offer a few remarks on the subject in hopes of inducing other